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Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

31 May

94LA0181A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Mr. Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from Tabriz, Quchan, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Hamadan, and Qom spoke as preagenda speakers.

Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings.

Fatemeh Homayun Moqadam, Deputy From Tabriz

Genuine and noble families view satellite antennas as banners of corruption from the period of the dawn of Islam.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Ms. Homayun Moqadam, deputy from Tabriz. During her speech she discussed the issue of the vice regency. She said: Since the right to rule over a human being belongs to God, in the absence of the Imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent), this authority is in the capable hands of the just and fully qualified theologian. After the Imam passed away, this vice regency became manifested in the being of Imam Khamene'i. Vice regency is the essence of being and the last lesson in the book of love and the imamate. The epic of 'Ali's appointment as Mohammad's successor is the manifestation of culture and the vice regency, and nothing more.

She offered condolences on the anniversary of the death of His Holiness the Imam. She said: Our nation's foundation of religious and national culture, which is laid down in the families, is the most important line of defense against the cultural invasion, and no invasion can succeed without eliminating the defense and weakening our culture. Right now satellites are the most important tool being used to target our genuine national culture, so that after wearing away our people's national and Islamic affinities, they can impose their intellectual and psychological rule on us, destroy our Iranian, national and Islamic identity and supplant it with a culture that is in line with the West's political and economic goals.

She added: In addition to taking legal steps, the Majles and the government must make families aware of the effects caused by satellites, especially in the areas of increasing crimes, murders and violence against girls and children, and destroying many genuine and sound families. We must realize that the first step in dealing with satellites is to elevate society's awareness so families can protect their members with full awareness.

In this regard, the serious and critical duty of the media and the press is to explain, analyze, and understand the effects arising from the use of satellites so that genuine families will be prepared to protect their families.

Ms. Moqaddam also emphasized: In any case, genuine and noble families view satellite antennas as banners of corruption from the period of the dawn of Islam. In view of the economic trends that have existed in society for years, it must be acknowledged that our economic problems began the first day the balance between supply and demand was disrupted, with reference on various pretexts to seeking welfare. The beginning in some families came when the culture of economizing, which at one time was a reigning principle in families, came to be seen on various justifications as running counter to values.

The deputy from Tabriz continued: In this time, when economic problems are affecting human societies, in addition to efforts towards economic development, economizing on the physical way of life is one of the most basic ways to deal with economic problems. Reducing consumption and preventing waste will not only bring supply and demand into balance, it is also one of the most basic procedures that can be followed.

She said the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] was the year for guiding loose capital towards production. She said: The structure of the type of consumption must be reformed. Why should just the nation reduce expenses? The government must also reduce excessive formalities, waste, dissipation, seminars, and foreign trips.

Ms. Moqaddam then said: The Muslim people of Azerbaijan know well that they must defend the Islamic values of their country. They must not under any circumstances permit foreigners and the worship of foreigners to interfere in their country. Bloodthirsty Israel is now greedily eyeing their water and soil. You must fear the leaning towards Russia.

In conclusion, she discussed the oppression of the women of Gorazde and the UN's impotence in this regard.

Ja'far Ebrahimi-Nezhad, Deputy From Quchan

The reconstruction jihad must retain its status as a body and not become entangled in the existing administrative bureaucracy.

The next speaker was Ebrahimi-Nezhad, deputy from Quchan. During his speech he offered congratulations on the anniversary of 'Ali's appointment as Muhammad's successor, and he discussed the anniversary of the death of the Imam (peace be upon him). He said: This year, during the ceremonies for the anniversary of the Imam's death, the people will prove that they follow the Imam and are seeking to realize that great one's high aspirations, which are to build a progressive, free, and independent country based on the commands of the luminous faith of Islam, which has the full power of the leadership and the management of societies.

On the eve of Reconstruction Jihad Week he also said: The fruits of the labors of these dear ones can be seen everywhere in the country, and one must not forget the

great services of these great unfortified builders of fortifications during the eight years of the sacred defense.

The speaker discussed the fact that these dear ones must retain their status as a body and not become entangled in the existing administrative bureaucracy. He added: A large number of graduates from the teacher training centers are unemployed, and yet the Ministry of Education and Training needs them.

Ebrahimi-Nezhad mentioned the fact that the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization disagrees with the Ministry of Education and Training over the number of people it wants to hire. He said: Their disagreement is damaging the country and education. We say that the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization and the Ministry of Education and Training must put aside their differences and clarify the status of this large group of people.

He discussed the new educational system. He added: The success of this new system is that it hires new manpower, and this is at a time when the current system has reached a dead end and does not accomplish anything.

Continuing, the deputy from Quchan said: Teachers do not have the ability to pay 16-percent interest on loans, and some of them are even about to sell their half-finished homes.

Concerning the problems and difficulties in his electoral district, he said: Because of the heavy traffic in Quchan, which has become the road to Central Asia, there is need for a beltway. The people on the Quchan plain are thirsty for water, and they want the work starting operation of the Tabarok Dam to be expedited. For some time we have been asking the Ministry of Agriculture to build an agricultural airport in west Quchan, where there are many orchards, to make it possible to dust the fields. Unfortunately, so far this has not been done.

Continuing, he also thanked Basharati for his concern and attention to the deprived regions. He added: The deprived areas have very good credits, but one point in the country not receiving attention is that in the prosperous villages you will see five or six rural areas that are truly deprived, and when we ask for a budget for them they tell us these are prosperous areas.

Aman Narimani, Deputy From Eslamabad and Karand-e Gharb

The next speaker was Narimani, deputy from Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karand-e Gharb. During his speech he offered congratulations on the anniversary of 'Ali's appointment as Muhammad's successor. He mentioned 15 Khordad [5 June] and the anniversary of the death of the Imam (peace be upon him). He said: The Islamic nation of Iran, with an area of more than 1.645 million square kilometers, is one of the world's 22 independent nations, including Germany, England, Japan and others, with an area greater than 90,000 [as published] square kilometers, and it is richer than most of them in terms of resources, reserves, water and soil. With these characteristics, this country should be one of the world's economic centers. Unfortunately, however, obstacles prevent us from moving in the direction of this great objective.

He then said he considered the existing obstacles to reaching this objective to be lack of sufficient attention to "faith and specialization" in the assignment of positions and responsibilities, the lack of sufficient oversight, the failure to do the necessary inspections out of a feeling of pain, anguish, commitment and responsibility, the failure of executive and judicial officials to deal seriously with violators and plunderers of the public treasury, delayed implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution, the lack of proper and prioritized planning in the assignment and construction of factories and industrial and commercial centers, and also illogical distribution of national and province credits for development, agriculture and education. He added: Through the elimination of the aforementioned defects, creating conditions suitable for production, creating incentives for producers, creating economic security for them, valuing domestic innovators and specialists, supporting them seriously and controlling and overseeing them carefully, a long and basic stride should be taken towards making the best use of these divine gifts and blessings.

Continuing, the speaker said: If we make use of past experience in agriculture, if we understand the weaknesses and strengths, if we provide encouragement and support and the necessary guarantees for crops, or if we assign special crops to provinces where specific studies have been done, we, will never see astronomically high prices and controversy with crops such as potatoes, onions and the like, with items such as this being imported one year and excessively abundant another year.

Narimani then discussed the fact that in most parts of the country agriculture is done in traditional ways. He said: Due to the excessive population growth in the present modern world, in the not-too-distant future the independence of nations will depend on their self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector.

He discussed the fact that more and better production depends on using scientific and new procedures and making the necessary use of tools, machinery, and technology appropriate for the times. He asked the minister of agriculture to give more attention to the water and soil sector, to training and to granting suitable loans to farmers.

He said: In that case, a significant part of the nation's needs for the production of wheat and barley will be met in my electoral district, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and the surrounding area.

At the end of his speech, the speaker issued memos to the minister of commerce concerning the construction of a silo in his electoral district and to the minister of roads and transportation about expediting the widening of the Kermanshah-Eslamabad road to two lanes.

Ahmad Habibian, Deputy From Hamadan

What is the meaning of giving gifts to news reporters at a sensitive time when the Ministry of Mines and Metals is being questioned?

Another preagenda speaker was Ahmad Habibian, deputy from Hamadan. In his talk he said: Now that we have accepted the critical responsibility of representing the people, let us put aside our personal and daily affairs and work for the revolution and the government with all our beings. Things are taking place in our nation's executive system that unfortunately are absolutely unacceptable to the dear leader and the nation loyal to the values of the revolution. There is no doubt that duty requires us to discuss the issues and problems with the officials, above all via negotiations, and away from media and press commotion.

He added: Unfortunately, some officials appear unwilling to preserve this laudable and traditional procedure from the late Imam. When someone like me is required by law to discuss a subject before the Majles, perhaps to cause someone to take notice, unfortunately the opposite result occurs. For example, on Wednesday 4 Khordad [25 May] they told me that the deputy minister of mines and metals for parliamentary affairs and the person in charge of managing that ministry's international relations invited some domestic newspaper journalists to have lunch and get acquainted, and a gift was also to be presented.

My religious obligation and the motivation to guard the values of the government persuaded me to go there promptly at 1200 to observe the event first-hand. It was just the story I had heard. The explanation was given that the meeting was to acquaint the gentlemen with the new cadre at the ministry's Office of International Relations and Affairs, and that there was no gift involved other than an insignificant bill. I was convinced to that extent, although I was still doubtful about the idea of inviting newspaper journalists during a research and investigation proceeding and a likely interpellation, especially to have lunch at the president of the republic's club.

With gullible belief, and ignoring the intentions of those giving this meal, I left the table. The doubts came to life, however, when later they reported to me from that same gathering that the story did not end with the gift of the bill. Inside each folder was a packet with a gift to the invitees of 25 200-tuman coupons for purchasing anything needed from the Qods Store. That means 5,000 tumans each.

The question now arises, what is the meaning of inviting news reporters and newspaper journalists for lunch and to receive gifts in this insulting way, and especially in this sensitive time when the Ministry of Mines and Metals is being questioned? My mair concern was for those who were invited, who did not know what was inside the bills. Why must this noble and esteemed class, which is the awakened conscience in our society and of whom even one hair is worth all the world's dependent news reporters, be insulted and humiliated in this way by some officials?

I say from this podium in a loud voice that our newspaper reporters will never sell their pens for your gift coupons. Their honor as reporters and their understanding of reality will not permit them to cover up the weak management and enormous embezzlements that are taking place. They will fulfill their mission in prophetic fashion, shoulder-to-shoulder with the deputies who have arisen from the masses of the people, and they will watch over this government's values with open eyes.

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

Only with unity of speech and the speech of unity will it be possible to overcome all the problems caused by our enemies.

Irani, deputy from Qom, was the final preagenda speaker. He thanked the speaker of the Majles for coming to Qom. With reference to 14 Khordad [4 June], the anniversary of the death of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and 15 Khordad, he said: Dear Majles deputies, let us arise in these sensitive circumstances, putting aside selfish concerns about our positions as deputies today and tomorrow or our alignment with a ministry, and let us work with pure intentions and proper action to put all affairs in order and begin the task of reforming ourselves and the Majles. Continuing, he mentioned the following items:

Pursuing motions and bills and prioritizing them in relation to society's existing needs and how close they are to implementation to alleviate the nation's economic and foreign exchange problems and difficulties, along with saving more time and exercising greater oversight, dealing with violators and agents of corruption, dealing as much as possible with the Second Five-Year Plan, along with careful expert work in the framework of the exalted leader's 12 policies, reviving the culture of work and the conditions for the growth of production and creating economic security along with the necessary facilities for public investment in the various sectors in accordance with the Constitution, increasing nonoil exports, not having the government organizations and companies such as the Ministry of Post and Telegraph exacerbate high prices, unrealistic expenditures and illogical activities not in accordance with the decrepit imperialist laws of English diplomacy, continued aggression by usurper Israel against the combative nation of Palestine and that nation's baseless and ridiculous accusations against Islamic Iran following the hostage taking and the silence of the international organizations, consist of imperialist plots.

At the same time the non-Islamic and deceptive behavior of the Saudi rulers to divert the public from the crimes being committed against the Muslims of the world and from their domestic malfunctions and lack of commitment and their inability to provide for the pilgrims and protect the lives of the pilgrims to the noble

shrines show the prostituted essence of the Saudis, who gladly serve criminal America. The Muslim nations must realize that only with unity of speech and the speech of unity can all the problems caused by our enemies be overcome and victory be achieved. Just as occurred in Islamic Iran and is also happening today with inspiration from the vice regency of 'Ali and Hoseyn's martyrdom, the plots will be destroyed with full steadfastness and power, and the criminal enemy will be faced everywhere with disgrace and humiliation.

Legislation

Election of Speaker's Council

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the election of the Speaker's Council. Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was elected Majles speaker, Hasan Ruhani was elected first deputy speaker, Hosein Hashemian was elected second deputy speaker, 'Asgar-Oladi, Za'eri and Taqavi were elected to be in charge of supplies, Mr. Sobhani-Nia, Mr. Yahyavi, Mr. Bahonar, Mr. Shahrzad, Mr. [?Angachi], and Mr. Seyyed Reza Akrami were elected as secretary with 170, 165, 163, 163, 151, and 129 votes, respectively, of a total of 228. The other candidates for secretary were Mr. Paknezhad-Farid, Mr. Astaneh, Mr. Mojtaba Hashemi, Mr. Naseri, and Mr. Zali, who received 73, 68, 60, 59, 59, and 59 votes, respectively. [sentence as published] t is worth mentioning that the votes for the other members of the Speaker's Council were printed in the last issue of the newspaper.

Another item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the "Very Urgent Motion on Procedures for Considering the Second Five-Year Plan."

Engineer Morteza Nabavi began with a speech. He said: In this very important bill, if the specialist commissions are to be secondary, the true task will not be properly discharged. It was therefore necessary to form a single commission called the "Composite Commission" with representatives of all the commissions, which can consider all the aspects of comprehensive programs from the point of view of the overall economy, agriculture, industry, the deprived areas, and facilities pertaining to the various provinces. Of course, five members of the Plan and Budget Commission are members of this Composite Commission.

Nabavi then added: This motion provides that the notes and items pertaining to each commission be referred to the commission itself, and when they study the issues, they will present their recommendations to the Composite Commission and the final compilation will be done there.

He also said: In the First Five-Year Plan we had the experience that many important items were approved as supplements. Then the deputies realized that they had given a prerogative to the government that they themselves did not accept, such as the prerogatives they gave to the Supreme Administrative Council. We do not want this situation to be repeated, so that all the deputies will be involved in the full process.

Morteza Nabavi then added: Since the logic of the planning process must be preserved, these guidelines provide that the overall goals, basic policies and resources be treated as two scenarios. They are approved as foundations for planning and then we can form and order these sectors in a second consultation based on these foundations.

In conclusion, he emphasized that this Composite Commission will have great power in writing the Second Five-Year Plan.

Speaking in opposition, Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht said: Not only will this motion not solve problems, it will also specifically create problems. This is why I am opposed to the motion. My question to the gentlemen is this: in the new procedure you call the Composite Commission, will the existing specialist commissions be considered main commissions, or secondary commissions? In view of Articles 3 and 4, which have been discussed, the specialist commissions will be secondary commissions. This problem exists in the procedure already being used.

Speaking in support of the motion, Mohsen Kuhkan said: We feel that all the respected deputies have that comprehensive view the brothers in the Plan and Budget Commission have. It is not that they all think in terms of sectors while the dear ones in the Plan and Budget Commission think in overall terms. Definitely, when the brothers in the Plan and Budget Commission have strong reasons in the Composite Commission, the other dear ones will accept it. The commission wants the Second Five-Year Plan to have strong expert work.

Zare'i-Qanavati spoke in opposition. He said: In view of the experiences we had in the First Five-Year Plan, will it solve any problems to approve the Second Five-Year Plan in this way? This is almost the same the procedure that was used in approving the 1373 Budget Law, with some changes. That is, the Joint Commission has changed its name to Composite Commission. I do not know, was the experience with the 1373 Budget Law successful or not?

Speaking in support, Qashqavi said: We should be seeking to create a mechanism in which the views of the specialist commissions are effective, and this Composite Commission is the solution.

Speaking in opposition, Dr. Zali said: I do not think this motion is in the interest of the Majles, and irreparable damage will be done to the country because we will not have a good plan.

In conclusion, Mr. Bahonar, as another of the authors of the motion, discussed the importance of this motion and the working procedure of the Composite Commission and the specialist commissions. Then a vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Question From a Number of Deputies to Minister of Post

The second item on the agenda was the question from a number of deputies to Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone. Sharifi, deputy from Arak, representing the questioners, began with a speech about increasing the rate for telephone calls more than the amount approved by the Majles. He said: Unfortunately, the minister's answer in the commission was not satisfactory, and the question has therefore been brought to the full Majles, and this was bitter for us. On the other hand, however, we cannot permit violations of Majles legislation.

"Paragraph B, Note 25, 1373 Budget Law: As of the year 1373 authorization is given, in preparing the charges for time in excess of existing charges, to collect only 2 rials [R] for each [electrical] surge from subscribers in residential units, the Ministry of Education and Training, police and military armed forces, the Imam's Aid Committee, and the Welfare Organization. The sum of R3 may be collected from other administrative subscribers and the sum of R4 may be collected from commercial telephone subscribers for the Telephone Company's development programs. These funds collected are to be deposited in the General Treasury's general revenues account."

However, what is being done today in the Telephone Company violates this legislation. That is, 20 percent is being added to the surge rate, and after that these charges of R2, R3, and R4 approved by the Majles are being added. After this increase they added 20 percent in addition to that Majles legislation for the small rural locales. Today the rate per surge for the small offices is R17.4, not R10 in addition to R2, R3, and R4.

Sharifi then added: Mr. minister should explain where they got legal authorization to increase telephone rates more than the amount given in the Majles legislation.

Minister of Post and Telephone's Answer

In answer to this question, Mr. Gharazi said: When we want to reach the Telephone Company's development goals, we must have 150.8 billion tumans to do this work. We must spend 44 billion tumans on our current expenses, and we must also spend 22.2 billion tumans on our debts and commitments, and the Telephone Company's total need in the year 1373 comes to 215 billion tumans. Now we must see where we will get this figure. We obtain 63.8 billion tumans from telephone slips, and 1 million slips must be sold; 9 billion tumans is the depreciation fund. When we collect R12 in the year 1373 for each telephone pulse, our total revenue from pulses becomes 81.8 billion tumans. When these figures were approved in the government, all these figures were approved in the Majles Energy Commission. If we compute the company's revenues based on R10 per pulse, instead of 81 billion, we get 65 billion tumans.

Since we came up short on funds for investment, the government proposed to the Majles that we collect R8 for extra charges, and from this we could have 40 billion tumans in revenues. In Note 25 the respected Majles ordered that this 40 billion tumans be reduced to less than 20 billion tumans. We had a 40-billion-tuman deficit, of which only 12 billion tumans was procured through the Majles. Now if we collect R10 per pulse, this R12 will be added and we will get a deficit of more than 100 billion tumans.

He added: No violation has taken place and all these numbers and figures were approved by the Majles.

Further Comments by Deputy From Arak

In further comments, Sharifi, deputy from Arak, said: Mr. engineer mentioned the 81 million tumans [as published] in estimated budget. If we add the figures given in the budget bill as revenue sources and some of the uncalculated figures, the Telephone Company's revenues make up for that 8 billion tumans, and there is even a little extra. First of all, we were clear in the law and there is no room for any kind of doubt. Two sentences were added to the bill. One was that in addition to the existing tariffs a tariff should be added, and these amounts are to be added in addition to that.

He discussed the process of increasing the rate for pulses. He said: The Telephone Company itself submitted a table to the Plan and Budget Commission showing the rates for pulses from the year 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] to the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], and this was presented to the Majles as a budget supplement. From 1/1/1371 [21 March 1992] to 12/29/1371 [20 March 1993] the pulse rate was R7. From 1/1/1372 [21 March 1993] to 6/31/1372 [22 September 1993] the pulse rate was R8, and finally from 7/1/1372 [23 September 1993] to 12/29/1372 [20 March 1994] the pulse rate was R10, and R12 was not specified anywhere.

Another indication is the telephone bills in the hands of subscribers. The basis for calculating pulses in the month of Esfand [20 February-19 March] was R10. As for the measure approved by the Economic Council for the first half of the year 1372 [21 March-22 September 1993], where the rate on 6/1/1372 [23 August 1993] was R8, the Economic Council approved a rate of R12. After a discussion in the Majles concerning the increases that had been made, the aforementioned measure was immediately cancelled and on 6/9/1372 [31 August 1993] under measure 34,833, the rate was reduced to R10 per pulse after 10 days.

The deputy from Arak then discussed the minister's concern about the budget deficit. He said: The revenues from some of the codes we checked have not been put on the account, and God willing they will be calculated. In Revenue Code 10100, the telephone subscriptions for

the entire country are written in the form of a question, but as a total they have not been added to the working figure. Revenues from foreign telephones were calculated based on the revenues for 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], but the number of channels has increased in the year 1373. However, the rate given in the bill is the 1371 rate. It appears that this figure may have an increase of about R100 billion, and there we had a deficit of R80 billion. The revenues for coin-operated telephones are not given in the Code 10100 revenues, and the total of these two amounts will make up the deficit.

New Answer From Minister of Post and Telephone

Based on the same report, Engineer Gharazi then said in reply: This statement about R10 and R12 per pulse is personal opinion. If we calculate the R10 figure, we get a little over 60 billion tumans. If we calculate at R12, we get a little over 80 billion tumans. It is on the second row. Therefore, it cannot be raised and lowered. The government presented the budget to the Majles based on the R12 rate, and the existing evidence consists of getting the numbers and the figures and the relevant officials. The Budget Approval Law, which has also been approved this year by the Majles, needs action by the board of directors, the general assembly, and the Economic Council. The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization is a part of the Telephone Company, and the same is true of the minister of economic and financial affairs. Government legislation and regulations are not controlled by individuals. If, as you say, we add 2 billion or 5 billion tumans, will we really reach the ceiling of 40 billion tumans so we can give telephones to 722,000 new subscribers this year? Has anyone really violated the law and taken money from the people? We are always proud that when the Economic Council and others have done things, we are finally given consideration by the dear ones in the Majles. Absolutely no violation of the law has taken place.

It is necessary to mention in this regard that after the minister's answer the questioners were not satisfied and the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission.

1 Jun

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. At yesterday's open Majles session, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, the deputies from the cities of Esfahan, Damavand and Firuzkuh, and Rasht gave speeches. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a speech about the anniversary of His Holiness the Imam's (peace be upon him) death and the political issues in the Muslim world and the region. Then the Majles recessed for a meeting with the exalted leader, and the agenda was not addressed.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

The subjects discussed by Mr. Nateq-Nuri at yesterday's open Majles session included the current issues in the region, the plots by some Islamic nations and also the fifth anniversary of the late Imam's death.

The Majles speaker began by discussing the point that our government is pursuing the events and processes taking place in the region with care and sensitivity. He said: Unfortunately, fratricide has reached its peak in Yemen, and as of today more than 50,000 people have lost their lives. Even more regrettable is that apart from the imperialist powers who are fanning the flames, Saudi Arabia is also stoking the fires of the conflict. This country has a hand in many plots in the region, and in inciting our neighbors against us on the pretext of the three Iranian islands. Of course, this is not the first time it has made mischief against Islamic Iran based on the mistaken and illogical prejudice of Arab identity. In Iraq's eight-year war against us Saudi Arabia supported Iraq, and it was also invaded by that same country.

The Majles speaker emphasized: The leadership of our government and our nation will not permit anyone to eye our soil enviously. The rulers of the Hijaz must come to their senses and stop these plots. They must try not to make another mistake and then have to apologize.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri offered friendly advice to the leaders of Yemen: The northerners and the southerners must realize that a unified Yemen is in their interest and that a divided and fragment Yemen is not in their interest.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then discussed the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. He said: The leaders of Afghanistan must stop fighting over the presidency and pursuing selfish interests, and they must work to rebuild this country and make it prosperous with unity of speech. I also ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to try to stop this fratricide in Afghanistan.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker of the Majles discussed the Zionist regime's kidnapping in Lebanon. He said: Unfortunately the scandalous actions of the occupying regime were not condemned by the international organizations and the United Nations. This action once more proved the falsity of the claims of those who defend human rights. In our view this is a shame and a disgrace for the defenders of human rights.

The speaker of the Majles also discussed the fifth anniversary of the celestial death of the late Imam. He said: A person who in our history truly has no peer after the saints (peace be upon them), a person who relied on God and acted with self-confidence, who stood up to the idolaters, and who made the Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him) reign in this country after centuries, this person showed that Islam can manage the country without relying on the imperialist powers, but with reliance on the Koran and the lessons of wisdom.

One of the blessings of the Imam's presence was his training of students such as the exalted leader, who serves as vice regent and Imam even now. He manages the country with the same firmness and in the same way our dear Imam did.

In conclusion, Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: I ask our good people to turn out as always to commemorate our dear Imam. It is incumbent upon all researchers to work in all dimensions for the Imam's public image and to present the Imam to the the people of the world as he was.

Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi, Deputy From Esfahan

Why don't we take to task the companies and ministries who do not obey the law in relation to those who have sacrificed?

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Kamran-Dastjerdi, deputy from Esfahan. In his speech he said: The world, especially the Muslim world, is affected by His Holiness the Imam's thoughts, and for this reason the awareness of nations has increased. These thoughts have even created fundamental problems for usurper regimes. If we look at the struggles of the nations of Bosnia and Palestine, they are influenced by this thinking. America is worried about this thought, because it has created power for nations, and the West must actually realize that the culture of the triumph of blood over the sword, which is the culture of the month of Moharram, has been spread through the region.

He added: Today supporters of the Islamic revolution are turning out to commemorate the Imam's anniversary because they are thirsty for this thinking. When Muslims from the Balkans or other areas come to Iran, they want to prove that this thinking has a message. On 15 Khordad [5 June] the idea was created for the Muslim people that religion and politics are not separate. Today the rightful substitute for the Imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent), the exalted leader, pursues this same idea.

Imperialism is angered by this very basiji spirit, and it pointlessly says that the liberation movements are terrorist. This time I hope that the gathering of nonaligned ministers will act properly. That is, I hope they will act properly when they speak of international security. Unfortunately, sometimes these meetings adopt policies from the imperialist trend.

The deputy from Esfahan discussed the exalted leader's remarks to the government concerning the alleviation of deprivation in the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: Unfortunately, with the new guidelines it has approved, the Council of Ministers has diminished attention in the Second Five-Year Plan to these people who have sacrificed, and even thwarted it. On the one hand, in the Second Five-Year Plan, on which work has already begun, attention must be given to maritime policy, because we have not given attention to the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and especially the Caspian Sea, and we have not even looked at threats to borders. Likewise, attention was not given to the educational sector in the First Five-Year Plan, and compensation must be made for the past.

Likewise, in the agricultural sector and in the conversion industries one must act in such a way that ethnic technology is strengthened. Our innovators must not lose their innovations in the complexities of dealing with the banks.

He continued: Our martyr-nurturing nation and my constituents in Esfahan want violators to be dealt with decisively. Government penalties, punishments, and incentives must be carried out in a timely manner, and the Ministry of Intelligence must be assisted in applying government penalties. This is a step that can be constructive.

Kamran explained that some laws are not being implemented. He said: Unfortunately the Majles is not calling wrongdoers to account. Why don't we take to task the companies and ministries who do not obey the law in relation to those who have sacrificed? If we do not do this, that means we ourselves are disobeying the law. On the one hand our oversight is weak. That is, our investigations and oversight sometimes get caught in complexities at the expense of the issue. This issue must be dealt without politesse or social formalities.

He asked the speaker of the Majles to reinforce the Majles Research Center. He noted: On the one hand, the culture between the deputy and the people must be changed. That is, the relationship between deputy and constituent must be such that the one can supervise and make laws. If deputies have several occupations, sometimes this may actually make all the areas of activity vulnerable and impede the essential mission.

Continuing his remarks, Kamran discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: If development is being done in Esfahan, it is for the people themselves. Esfahan is the honor of the government, and more attention than this must be given to Esfahan.

In conclusion, I want to give attention to the issue of enjoining good and prohibiting evil, especially in summer, and I advise that procedures be reinforced in this regard.

Seyyed Ahmad Rasuli-Nezhad, Deputy From Damavand and Firuzkuh

Despite the passage of 16 years since the revolution, we have not yet obtained a suitable economic model.

The next speaker was Rasuli-Nezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh. In his speech he commemorated the memory of the late Imam. He said: To whatever extent we become a more powerful government in expressing the values of Khomeyni, to that same extent the glory and dignity of the Islamic Republic of Iran will increase.

Continuing, he said: Discussing existing weaknesses along with presenting ways to solve the problems must not be seen as an effort to weaken. Of course the words, speech, actions, and behavior of any individual, group, or organization depend on the intention. If they set out to weaken the system and the toiling government on the pretext of criticizing and discussing weaknesses, this is a crime against the nation and the government, contrary to the interest of the government and contrary to the exalted leader's guidance and advice.

The speaker added: Unfortunately today we are seeing this in some writings, newspapers and magazines. When we seek to exaggerate problems we ourselves know cannot be solved with existing resources, if we put pressure on society's thinking, if we announce it to the public in big headlines when the foreign exchange rate goes up, and then when it goes down pass over it with indifference and little attention, when in statements, telephone contacts and articles sent to readers we pursue a specific policy, which is this very weakening and questioning of the government, the Majles and the judicial power, when we make propaganda about high prices and when we use big headlines to destroy the effectiveness of the programs and decisions in the government and the Majles, causing higher prices for goods and chaos in market pricing, this is weakening the government.

Rasuli-Nezhad added: Just when the speaker of the Majles portrayed the Fourth Majles as a Majles of work that is free of any kind of confusion, confrontation or political factionalism and said that the existing differences are matters of taste, rather than ideological or fundamental, and clearly declared that the lack of factionalism is one of the characteristics of the Fourth Majles, the gentlemen behaved in precisely the opposite way. Instead of striving to create social solidarity and unity at this sensitive time and seeking to use all existing resources to solve problems, they are trying to intensify factional confrontations.

Continuing, the deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh added: Despite the passage of 16 years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, we still have not obtained a suitable economic model. We must find a suitable model and a sound, middle, and constructive path that will bring about prosperity, development, and economic growth for our country by using the views, recommendations, and plans of the great economic clergymen in the seminaries and the university scholars and professors, in view of existing conditions, capabilities and circumstances.

He continued: Whoever has the knowledge and the capability to work on the problem must step forward, accept responsibility and pay his debt to this noble nation. Whoever does not have that ability should withdraw from the economic decisionmaking arena.

The speaker discussed the hiring of specialist and educated personnel outside the country. He said: We must make available to them the minimum resources or half the training in life they have available in the West, and these include housing, salaries, and suitable employment.

Continuing, Rasuli-Nezhad thanked the minister of guidance for decisively putting a stop to sending individuals who usually went along in connection with the pilgrimage to Mecca, and he called for a reduction in the size of the pilgrimage staffs.

Ahmad Salek-Kashani, Deputy From Esfahan

It is the mission and responsibility of the Muslims in the present world to follow the guidance and the imamate of the exalted leader.

The next speaker was Salek-Kashani, deputy from Esfahan. He offered condolences on the anniversary of the 15 Khordad uprising and the death of the late Imam (peace be upon him). He discussed the splendid ceremonies commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Imam's (peace be upon him) death. He said: Those who believe in the vice regency are rushing from all over the world to the center of the Muslim World. Likewise, basijis in groups of several thousand, traveling on foot but with hearts full of love and devotion to the Imam (peace be upon him), are en route to Tehran from the most remote parts of the country to reassert their allegiance to the vice regent of the Muslims of the world.

Continuing, the speaker added: In the circumstances currently prevailing in the world, the superpowers and the uncultured devourers of the world have brought their enmity and hostility towards the Islam of Muhammad and the power, greatness and very important role of the leadership and the vice regency to a peak. They have tried every hostile action, including coups d'etat, the eight-year imposed war, vulgar cultural attacks, and economic and political pressure, to try to destroy the foundations of religion and the Koran, ethical values and divine criteria, ignoring the fact that the awareness and desire for Islam in the world is a bomb that will ultimately destroy the world's infidel leaders.

Salek-Kashani then discussed the issue of the vice regency and the leadership. He said: (God) placed the position of the imamate, the vice regency and the leadership only in His Holiness Abraham's glorious lineage of prophets and saints, and reserved it for those chosen by the nation. Therefore, based on this imamate and leadership, all oppression in the world until Resurrection Day is false, usurped, and rejected.

In this same regard he added: The mission and responsibility of the Muslims and the people in today's world is to follow the guidance and the imamate of the exalted leader in the absence of His Holiness the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), and this is the secret of achieving human aspirations and goals, religious values and unified government to reform the world and the next life of the people, and the bring about glory and pride for all Muslims and free people.

The speaker added: Because the vice regency and the leadership is the agent of unity, by obeying him and following his leadership one must rise to struggle against every oppressive act and oppressive government to save oppressed humans everywhere in the world.

At the end of his speech he said: It is expected and required of all the nation's officials and administrative organizations to become more complete by strengthening their personal relationship with God and clinging as much as possible to the vice regency, and this is necessary to mobilize manpower and to keep the nation involved in public affairs. The Majles must work to make the Second Five-Year Plan conform to the policies announced by the exalted leader, and the efforts and activities of the president of the republic must be explained to the people. We want the weak executive managers, who are perhaps the main problem in dealing with the people, to be dealt with seriously.

Mohammad Baqer-Nowbakht, Deputy From Rasht

It is expected that oversight and control of prices will be continued decisively until we reach economic stability.

The final preagenda speaker was Nowbakht, deputy from Rasht. In his speech he said: Less than 10 days after the unprecedented welcome by the people in the cities of Gilan for the beloved president of the republic, where in Rasht the line of welcoming crowds was 11 km long, once again the committed and brave people of this province created another epic event and sang anthems of emotion and belief.

He added: Beginning on 3 Khordad [24 May] this year, the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, intoxicated devotees set out on their way to the shrine they sought, so that in the days of mourning for the Imam they could wash the shrine with their tears along with the other devotees and drink from the clear spring of the Imam's spirit, and then smell the life-giving scent of the rose of the imamate in the rose water of the vice regency. When the flower is gone and the rose garden is destroyed, we find the scent of the rose in the rose water.

They renewed their declaration of loyalty at the Jamaran passion play theater and at the Imam Khomeyni passion play theater, under the guidance and direction of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i himself. The movement of more than 1,000 old and young people of Gilan, walking to His Holiness the Imam's shrine, was a movement of love and at the same time an epic in which, with mystical humility, they stood erect, brave and powerful against the enemy, recalling the daily steadfastness and the nightly mysteries and needs of the combatants.

This symbolic and meaningful movement has at least two evocative messages, first that the Muslim nation is still adhering firmly to its pact with the Imam and Islam, and that the passage of four years since the Imam's departure from the world of soil has had no effect on the firm determination of the people to follow the Imam's sacred aspirations. Second, contrary to the ignorant domestic and foreign analyses to the effect that after the Imam's death the essence of the government and public harmony would be destroyed, the exalted leader's worthy and sensitive management, which arises from His Excellency's deep understanding of the comprehensive orthodoxy of the Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him), has shown that the powerful and evocative Islamic revolution continues to move forward as in the past with firmness and determination along the path of resistance against international imperialist bullies, preservation of domestic independence and sympathy with the oppressed people of history.

In such an atmosphere, where the powerful people of the world are responding by tightening the embargo against this liberating thought, and who have increased Iran's economic problems more than before, it is more difficult and sensitive for those running the government to carry out their responsibilities, and this requires suitable management.

He explained: Recent decisions to supervise and control prices and to make suitable foreign exchange allocations are some of the necessary steps the government has taken, and it is expected that this will continue decisively until economic stability is achieved.

In conclusion he praised all the officials who guided the epic march of the people of Gilan to His Holiness the Imam's shrine.

12 Jun

94LA0187A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Yesterday the Majles met in open session chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Esfahan, Kashan, Gachsaran, Shiraz, Sarab, and Takestan spoke as preagenda speakers. Then the Majles speaker gave a short speech in which he discussed the exalted leader's satisfaction with the work of the Majles. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

At yesterday's open Majles session Mr. Nateq-Nuri gave a speech in which he discussed the meeting of the deputies with the exalted leader. He said: We thank God that in these last two years the Majles has acted in such a way that it has not disturbed the exalted leader's peace of mind and has pleased His Excellency. We thank God that he has enabled the Majles to obey the vice regent, and we must also thank you deputies for acting in such a way that the Majles has received the kindness and favor of His Holiness in this way.

The speaker of the Majles then added: With the guidance His Excellency has given, greater care is definitely demanded in studying the legislation and the speeches. Likewise, in view of the exalted leader's comments

pertaining to the government, proper use must be made of the tools that are at our disposal such as memos, questions, and other aspects of oversight. In my view we must take care not to weaken the executive apparatus and the government. In speeches and comments, we must take care that the people do not become disappointed. On behalf of the Majles, I thank His Excellency for all these blessings.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then discussed the exalted leader's remarks concerning the observances of the month of Moharram [11 June-29 July] at a gathering of clergymen in Boyer Ahmad. He said: The Moharram mourning and the 'Ashura rites have always kept this epic event alive. Just as the Imam said, the mourning tradition must be maintained, and Imam Hoseyn's (peace be upon him) revolution and uprising must be explained to the people so they will understand the philosophy of uprising. However, the meaning of the tradition of mourning is not to commit heresy and act on superstition.

Perhaps throughout history there have been and are many clergy and great ones who believed the point the exalted leader made, but did not have the courage to say so. As vice regent and imamate, and with that same clarity and courage that he has, he said that acts such as hitting one's head with a knife are superstition and heresy, and were never in history approved by the imams (peace be upon them) or the clergy. This is a violent and frightening act that they do as an act of mourning for Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him).

It is incumbent on the clergy, the propagandists, and the nation's educational organizations and Friday imams to explain the exalted leader's remarks to the people. The executive organizations must deal seriously with the issue in guidelines, and His Excellency's comments must be enforced. In conclusion, the Majles speaker expressed his gratitude and praise for the active participation of the people on the fifth anniversary of the passing of the Imam (peace be upon him).

Mehdi Azhe'i, Deputy From Esfahan

Our organizations must work as much as possible to do higher research.

The first preagenda speaker was Azhe'i, deputy from Esfahan. During his speech he discussed the arrival of the month of Moharram, the month of the triumph of blood over the sword. He said: The Islamic movement of Iran is one of the fruits of the Karbala uprising, and its foundation is the enjoinment of good and the prohibition of evil.

Continuing, he explained that the triumph of the followers of truth is a certainty. He said: The revolutionary people will arise no matter how much the enemy works with all his might to drive away the Islamic revolution, and no matter how much he attacks using the weapons he has available, whether with economic or military warfare, cultural invasion, assassination of great ones in the movement, spreading rumors and lies and sowing discord between the leader and the president of the republic, making claims about the president of the republic's resignation, claiming that the construction programs have borne no fruit and that the Five-Year Plan has not succeeded in an effort to plant the seeds of disappointment and despair in the hearts of the people.

The speaker added: We must realize that the enemy creates the rumors, the hypocrites spread them and the stupid believe them.

Azhe'i then discussed the president of the republic's trip to the province of Esfahan and the opening of several important and vital infrastructure projects. He said: Among the courageous measures that he personally took was to begin construction on the Kuhrang-3 Tunnel, whose costs will be primarily met through Esfahan's water price, and three provinces will benefit.

The deputy from Esfahan discussed the fact that our universities must work as much as possible for higher research. He said: The government must also pay more attention to this, as is provided in the Five-Year Plan. Although we know that the conservation of resources is not sufficient and that in many of the world's research and scientific centers wonderful work is still being done in the same 100-year-old buildings and with installations that are sometimes old, we must realize that the prudence, collaboration, and enthusiasm of the researchers and crusaders and their efforts have the first word, and today that simply means creating conditions for work and research.

In conclusion, Azhe'i discussed the fact that the active involvement of students in science and politics is a goal of the revolution and one of the desires of the great leader of the revolution and the exalted leader. He said: Some of the university presidents must not regard superficial matters that have only the value of reports as obedience to the leader. They must realize that the hezbollah youth who love the vice regency can tell the difference between what is pure and what is not pure.

Mahmud Jamali, Deputy From Kashan

The next speaker was Jamali, deputy from Kashan. He offered condolences on the arrival of the month of Moharram. In his speech he thanked the president of the republic for traveling to Kashan, Aran, Bidgol, and Qamsar. He said: The president of the republic's trip to Kashan was a shower of mercy, which slaked the thirst for kindness and affection felt by those living on the fringes of the Kashan plain. He brought the good news that water will be procured, which has been the hope of the people for many long years, and this made the people more hopeful than before. Continuing, Jamali said: The opening of the experimental 60,000-ton sponge iron project with the creation of direct recovery technology in less than 42 days brought pride and honor to Islamic Iran.

At the end of his speech the speaker thanked the minister of energy, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, the minister of roads and transportation, the minister of

labor and social affairs, the minister of culture and higher education, the minister of intelligence and the minister of housing and urban development, who accompanied the president of the republic on his trip to Kashan.

Haj Mohammad Movahed, Deputy From Gachsaran

Where in the world do you know of a leader who ignores the hardships of a journey to sit for hours with the people?

The next speaker was Haj Movahed, deputy from Gachsaran. During his speech he discussed the arrival of the month of Moharram and commemorated the heroism of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and his brave companions. He said: Finally the sunshine of our joy emerged from behind the cloud of expectation, and the seed of eagerness, which the deprived people of the province of Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh had kept green and alive in their aching hearts for years in expectation of such days, bore fruit. The exalted leader of the revolution, with his blessed footsteps, applied soothing balm to our expectant eyes. By visiting the brave land of this province, he made the residents of the area indebted to his kindness.

He added: Where in the world do you know of a leader who ignores the hardships of a journey to sit for hours with the people? In the unbearable heat of that area, he personally and directly supervised solutions to their problems, and especially with regard to the poor, he ordered that the necessary things be done.

He thanked the people of Gachsaran for their striking welcome for the exalted leader. He said: My esteemed colleagues know that the vice regent of the Muslims of the world, in his recent visit to the province of Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, placed the aforementioned province at the top of the list of deprived provinces, while discussing its problems and capabilities. In his comments, he emphasized that despite the efforts and the development work by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this province remains in deprivation. His Excellency also explained that the Council of Ministers, and at their head, the president of the republic, must make 10 times more effort to alleviate deprivation in the form of long-term projects for this province.

In conclusion he thanked and praised Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ayuri, Mohammadi Golpayegani, Mr. Mirzadeh, executive vice president of the republic, the ministers, the chief of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Wounded War Veterans, the chief of the President of the Republic's Deprived Regions Office, the anonymous soldiers of the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), and all the people who accompanied His Excellency the vice regent to the aforementioned province.

He continued: It is necessary to procure drinking water for most rural areas and cities, to develop a network of connective roads, to study talents and potential economic resources, to guide and distribute infrastructure, production and service investments, especially for the conversion industries associated with agriculture and natural resources, to deal with the shortage of classroom space, to open the Payam-e Nur University in Dehdasht, to establish a teacher training center for girls, to deal with the severe shortage of health care resources and medical treatment equipment, to help with and compensate for the losses to the region's agriculture and animal husbandry sectors caused by the reduced precipitation and the drought crisis, to provide gas service to the cities and rural areas in my electoral precinct adjacent to the national gas pipeline to Central Asia, to give attention to the needs of teachers, to give attention to the families of martyrs and wounded war veterans, and to give attention to the reasonable demands of the region's youth.

Qasem Sho'le-Sa'di, Deputy From Shiraz

Another preagenda speaker was Sho'le-Sa'di, deputy from Shiraz. In his speech he read poetry praising the prince of martyrs (peace be upon him). He said: Although I had intended not to speak in the Majles, it was the will of fate that I had to speak in the sacred Majles concerning the provocative and false question asked by the reporters from a Japanese newspaper at a press conference with the president of the republic. For clarification, I will repeat just one or two statements I made about this press conference 10 days ago. What I can say is that Mr. Rafsanjani is a man of persistence and a man of crisis, and he does not back away from crisis. He was and is one of the pillars of the revolution. Because of his individual capabilities, in one of my speeches I called him Iran's Amir Kabir, and I believe this now. I think it is still the views of Rafsanjani that can put the country in order.

Mahmud Ruhbakhsh, Deputy From Sarab

In the country there are about 245 semicomplete projects, each of which has consumed more than $5 million in foreign exchange.

Another preagenda speaker was the deputy from Sarab. In his speech he discussed foreign exchange debts and commitments. He said: Through the grace of God and with timely action by Central Bank personnel, these commitments are decreasing. Of course, the infrastructure and industrial investments that have been made will exert their good effects on national production and on the lives of the people in the near future, but there is a need to reappraise the comparison of the economic conditions in East and West Azarbaijan and Ardebil provinces so that national justice will be observed, and unfortunately so far it has not been observed.

He added: I have a question in the form of a memo. I have heard the economic planners say many times that even America is in debt, and they have explained the statistics on the some $100,000 billion of debts in various countries.

The question is this: What person and what intellectual and economic way of thinking is a creditor? The answer is economic imperialism, led by the Zionists. The gross oil revenues of the oil-rich nations is less than the monetary profits that economic imperialism obtains. It is thus very dangerous to become a debtor, and in its legislation for the Second Five-Year Plan the Majles must act with more awareness in the area of foreign exchange commitments, because the creation of commitments is correct when before making the commitment a program for repayment is designed through economizing on foreign exchange in production or exports of products. Otherwise, in the long term the finished cost of coming to the production stage will be too great to justify the project's foreign exchange investment, and the country will suffer a loss.

The deputy from Sarab continued: On this basis I present the sad fate of a number of semicomplete projects in the provinces of East and West Azarbaijan and Ardebil, which have been under way at the hands of the private and government sectors for five to 10 years, as follows: science and technology are advancing rapidly and changes and obsolescence of technical knowledge in the nonsensitive industries take place in less than five years. The phenomenon of knowledge becoming outmoded is more significant than the wearing out of machinery. Production determines and designs its fate in the field of competition through use of the technology of reducing energy consumption and manpower and ultimately by reducing the finished cost and the period of use.

In the country there are about 245 semicomplete projects, each of which has consumed more than $5 million in foreign exchange. A number of them began even before the First Five-Year Plan, and unfortunately, in the interim year, which was the year of effort and innovation, they were condemned to death.

Economic planners! The economic happiness of any nation depends on its national product. As a member of the Industry and Mines Commissions and one of the deputies from Azarbaijan, I have worked two years with all my being and with love and concern for production.

I must say that under current circumstances the only way to bring the nation's semicomplete projects to production, especially in the province, is to obtain rials, and unfortunately the banks are either inundated and captivated by payments on obligatory loans, or in some banks the time is being taken up with reducing the coefficient of investment success and security.

Specifically, in the provinces of Azarbaijan, despite the fact that the delegation of deputies has met 12 times with the ministers and five times in special meetings with the minister of economic and financial affairs, of the 24 semicomplete projects they have succeeded in solving the problems of only a small number of the projects.

Unfortunately, if this trend continues, scientific obsolescence and the gap between advancement and backwardness will never permit the possibility of domestic production competing with foreign production and ultimately with nonoil exports.

He added: The government must oppose sector-oriented thinking in its organizations. At a time of crisis and in the next five years it should reevaluate official holidays. The work days should be increased from 250 to 300 and ultimately it must bring the share of the elements of production up to the international standard. It must establish export insurance in the country and support committed experts.

Rajab Rahmani, Deputy From Takestan

Satisfying the exalted leader is the greatest gift and divine power for the Majles.

The final preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Rahmani, deputy from Takestan. In his speech he offered congratulations and condolences to the survivors of the 1,500 martyrs. He discussed the exalted leader's orders concerning the mourning assemblies. He said: There is no doubt that the Majles will be the executive authority for the exalted leader's orders in all political, social, cultural, and religious areas.

He explained that today America is the leader of the world's oppressors, bullies, and aggressors. He said: Human rights violations by America and Israel, the attack on Haiti, support for the Serbs, Israel's terrorist activity, kidnapping and night bombing of southern Lebanon and other instances show that to save Islam, humanity and the world's deprived and oppressed, Muslims have adopted the same path adopted by Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and his companions.

The speaker then discussed the anniversary of the Majles, the meeting of the deputies with the exalted leader, and that great man's imam-like statements are further confirmation and validation of the fact that the Majles has retained its independence and power. The four characteristics of the Majles as declared by the exalted leader are a sense of responsibility, independence, courage and wisdom, and praise God the Majles has acted and will act in this way. Satisfying the exalted leader is the greatest gift and divine power for the Majles.

Continuing, Rahmani added: With the frameworks designated by the exalted leader, the Majles must set frameworks for the approval of the Second Five-Year Plan and it must prove that it is the world's most independent, courageous, sound and productive parliament.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the details of the very urgent motion to plan the study of the Second Five-Year Plan. Its general form was previously approved. The deputies made numerous

recommendations with regard to the motion's details, none of which passed. Then the Majles voted on the principle of Article 1, and in view of the two-thirds guideline, it was not approved. Then a vote was taken on removing the motion, and this did not pass either.

When neither the principle of Article 1 nor its removal was approved, the Majles speaker asked the deputies to present their recommendations again so that one of them could be approved. Then an alternate proposal was presented.

With the approval of the alternate proposal for Article 1 of this motion to set the principles and provisions of the Five-Year Development Plan and to coordinate the Majles specialist commissions, the Compound Commission will be formed, composed of members of the Plan and Budget Commission in addition to a member from each of the specialist commissions with the exception of the Internal Guidelines Commission and the Commission To Study Laws Since the Revolution.

The study of the other provisions of this motion and the deputy proposals concerning these articles were deferred to the next Majles session.

The deputies presenting this motion said putting procedures for considering multiple-year programs in the Majles Internal Guidelines and the addition to the agenda of the Five-Year Development Plan were their reasons for presenting the aforementioned motion.

At today's open Majles session the urgent status of the Bill To Extend the Grace Period for Experimental Implementation of the Construction Engineering System Law was discussed and approved.

The two-year experimental implementation of the Construction Engineering System Law was approved in the Majles on 3/26/1371 [16 June 1992].

Shoja'i-Fard's Question to Minister of Agriculture

This question states: In view of the Majles legislation in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] on the purchase of citrus fruits and dates at guaranteed prices, why haven't the dates from Jahrom been purchased yet, when about 15,000 tons of dates are in the process of being lost? This letter was presented to the Majles speaker on 3/4/1373 [25 May 1994].

Related Material

* Rafsanjani on Economic Regulations, Pricing

94LA0189A Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Jun 94 p 4

[Interview with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani by reporters on 7 June; place not given]

[Text] **News Service. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took part in a press, radio, and television conference yesterday morning and responded to the questions of domestic and foreign reporters.**

A SALAM correspondent asked: Based on the policy of modification, prices must be determined on the basis of supply and demand and the market, does the new pricing policy then not mean a departure from the past policies and would it not confuse the producers. In response, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

In my opinion, no. Look. Modification does not mean that prices should not be set. If you check your records, you will find that in the early years, at the time when we eased trade restrictions and made the situation more beneficial to commerce, we said that when there is a shortage of goods, pricing will result in everything going underground, create hoarding, black market, varied rates, and such. But, given the circumstances of goods existing in the market normally, now is the time for pricing. At this moment, if you go to the most economically free countries in the world, you will see pricing. Every store in every country has price tags on its goods. We do not intend to impose unrealistic prices on goods. There are a series of goods that are monopolized. Those goods that are mostly controlled by the government are priced by us, and we have no problems, such as sugar-cubes, sugar, tea, steel, and the like. There are a series of general goods that are priced through the guilds. The [Consumers and Producers] Protection Organization sits down with the unions and considering an appropriate profit for the wholesaler, producer, and retailer, they set three prices. They are required to implement those prices. There is a fair profit, and the customer sees the price and has a choice. This is by no means contrary to free trade. In the world, in the free countries, which are much more advanced in free trade, this method is now common. And it is not, in my opinion, contrary to the modification policy. Perhaps only because we do not allow overpricing and misleading customers into buying an item at several times its price without knowing it, these incidents are prevented.

The IRNA report also indicates:

The SALAM correspondent asked: Does the economic modification policy, which sets prices on the basis of supply and demand, not indicate a change in the past policies. To this, Mr. Rafsanjani responded: In economic modification, the basis is pricing. In the most economically free countries in the world, too, pricing exists.

He added: We try not to have unrealistic and imposed pricing and to set prices on the basis of the actual value of goods. Prices are set on the basis of wholesale and retail sales profits and the customer is given a choice. This is a common practice in business, which prevents overcharging the customer.

In response to another question by the SALAM correspondent, as to whether or not the negative effects of the modification policies have hindered the number of its successes, the president explained: We intend to increase the wages of the salary earners before inflation hits. The owners of free businesses must also naturally increase their tariffs on the basis of inflation. And those who do

not receive regular pay must make use of the budget that has been established and centers such as the Emergency Committee.

In response to the question of the Voice and Vision correspondent concerning future relations between Iran and England following the discovery of the listening device in the Iranian Embassy in London, the president said: The effects of this violation by England have created insecurity and an atmosphere of distrust regarding the relations between the two countries.

We do not wish to have insecurity and distrust with countries in which we have representatives.

In regards to the new foreign currency policy of the country, the president said: The new foreign currency policy that we announced last week follows the single foreign currency rate policies of the past. With these policies we intend to modify supply and demand in the market in order for a single rate to actually be achieved.

He said: In future months, the actual rate of foreign currency will be clarified with the supply and demand that we shall regulate and it is anticipated that the rate of foreign currency will be lower than the rate that is now in the market.

A foreign reporter questioned: In three years, your presidential term will end, do you wish to step aside or make reforms in the Constitution? In response to this question, the head of the Executive Branch responded: We are more inclined not to change the Constitution and to have it implemented.

If I perform my duties well in these eight years, there will be no need for me to be reelected and affairs will be on a good course.

The president continued: The policy of privatization is a policy that started in the First Plan, and it will be pursued in the Second Plan. We do the work gradually within the boundaries of the constitution and will transfer some sectors as far as the Constitution allows to the private sector. Based on the law, we support foreign investments, and those who wish to invest in the country can do so within the boundaries of the Constitution.

Concerning the recent visit of Dr. Velayati to Egypt, he said: This visit does not mark a change in our Middle East policy. First, travel to Egypt has never been prohibited; such travel will continue on both sides. And the purpose of the visit of the foreign minister was to participate in the meeting of the nonaligned movement.

In regards to the satellite dishes in the country, the president said: This is a new issue that has prompted various discussions. There is a proposal being discussed in the Majles, and the opinion of the Majles will be announced in time.

In regards to his relationship with the grand leader, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I do not think those who know us have any doubt that our relationship is one of the most sincere human relationships.

The media of the oppressors brought up these differences prior to the death of Imam Khomeyni.

He said: We have had no differences that could not be resolved. We have discussions and usually are in agreement.

I consider the grand leader the most pious person for leadership. There are a series of general policies in the hands of the leader that all must obey, and there are executive affairs that are in the hands of the president and the leader confirms.

In continuation, in regards to the economic issues of the country, he said: Our statistics and figures are open and everyone can easily judge them.

In this Five-year term, we have had the usual 8-percent growth, which is considered good economic growth in the world, and few countries in the world are able to achieve this growth in less than five years. We have totally eliminated the budget deficit. We have strengthened the foundations well, and we have left behind the modification phase which has social symptoms.

He said: Our markets are saturated. Our products in all industrial, agricultural, fishing, animal husbandry, and other sectors meet the needs of the country, and we have significantly lowered the need for foreign currency. In the Second Plan, we shall need half of the foreign currency of the First Plan.

There are shortages in Iran, like in other countries, which are very natural and are being eliminated.

The shortages and problems that exist in the period of modification may decrease or increase some of the votes and this is not unusual. We have had fluctuations in votes in the past elections as well. The grand leader was elected for two terms and his second term votes, like in my second term, decreased somewhat. This is not something that we can consider serious.

He added: We have had about two-thirds of the votes in the course of passing through the very hard policy of modification and reconstruction. I would say that the president, who carries out the modification policy and carries out the reconstruction resulting from the war and earthquakes as well as foundational work, and who still has two-thirds of the votes in a free election, in my opinion, is very successful rather than saying that he faces problems.

In response to the correspondent of HAMSHAHRI newspaper concerning the characteristics of an ideal newspaper in the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: What we expect of the press is that they deal with the issues more deeply and avoid slogans and popular views.

He said: The press must help clarify the facts and act on the basis of research. Instead of provoking the emotions, it must understand the general policies of the regime and deal with the issues within that framework.

In regards to the modification policies after the passage of five years, the president said: All the issues of the first government plan and the modification policies have been positive.

High prices are among the goals. In order to have a sound economy, we have to bring the prices to their actual level. Subsidized prices do not allow the economy to form.

Concerning the situation in Iraq, responding to the correspondent of the Kuwait News Agency, the president said: In the past, too, we have frequently condemned the aggressions of Iraq and believe that the Ba'th regime has mistreated the people of Iraq a great deal. On the other hand, we believe that the action of Saudi Arabia, which is done under the assertion of rescuing the people of that country, is not correct.

In response to another question by this news agency concerning the export of the revolution, he said: The export of the revolution has never been an issue, and anyone who wishes will concede that we have spent all of our resources on building our country.

Concerning the future of relations between Tehran and London, considering that a listening device was discovered some time ago in the Iranian Embassy in London, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The violation by England compromises mutual relations, and we do not wish for such an atmosphere of distrust to be created in our relationship with other countries.

In response to the question of the correspondent of ITAR-TAAS, who asked about the future of relations between Iran and Egypt, the president said: We believe that Egypt, by signing the Camp David Accords, created a gap in the lines of the struggle of Arabs and Muslims against the Zionist regime and has not yet changed its course. Nevertheless, we consider Egypt a great Islamic country and wish for conditions to govern that will enable us to resume our relations with that country.

In regards to Iran's efforts to transfer the parent and steel industries to the private sector, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Apparently there was a suggestion at the level of members of the Majles which the government opposes and is probably contrary to the Constitution as well. Even if that proposal is ratified, the Council of Guardians will reject it.

The correspondent of ABRAR asked: Considering the diplomatic violations of London, does Iran intend to sever relations with England or not? In response to this question, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We do not see it as necessary to sever relations. We experienced the severing of relations once, and both countries realized that such an action does not change anything. He added: We do not gain by severing relations, except for some special reason, and this relationship must exist, no matter how weak, in order to protect our interests. We shall react to any violation by them.

The president emphasized: Foreign policy means reciprocation, and we shall never relinquish the right to reciprocate.

Concerning support for the salary-earning stratum in the government programs, the president said: The level of wages must increase appropriately with the increase in prices, and this year in accordance with the Constitution, the salary of workers has increased.

He added: Preparations are also under way to increase the salaries of government employees.

In response to a question by the French News Agency concerning the United States once again becoming the number-one trading partner of Iran and how long Tehran intends to postpone normalizing relations, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Tehran has never severed trade relations with Washington.

He said: In regards to relations with the United States, we believe that the United States has not shown good intentions, and since the revolution it has regularly lacked a proper policy. The Americans want negotiations, but we do not consider initiating negotiations in our interests.

The president said: If the American officials have good intentions, they must first release Iranian property and at least for once prove their good intentions.

He added: We proved our good intentions in the issue of helping attain the freedom of the American hostages in Lebanon, but the Washington government, which had promised that if we would help in the release of the hostages it would release our property, did not keep its promise, and this promise breaking caused us to be distrustful.

In response to another question by the French News Agency concerning the imminent visit of Dr. Velayati to Iraq, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The visit of Dr. Velayati is within the framework of the implementation of Resolution 598 and resolving the remaining differences between the two countries.

He said: The two countries have not yet reached full agreement concerning placing posts, dredging of the Arvand River, and the prisoners, and if these agreements are reached, the level of relations between the two countries will expand.

Concerning the future of relations between Iran and Syria, the president said: The Syrian officials will not sacrifice their own interests or those of the Palestinians, and the relations between Iran and Damascus are at a desirable level.

Concerning the plan to return Najibollah to power in Afghanistan, he said: UN officials cannot return to power a person whom the people of a country have fought to drive out.

In response to the correspondent of the Anatoli News Agency as to whether Islamic laws can rule a country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We believe that solving problems is easier within the framework of Islam, but it requires time.

If we are able to fully implement Islamic ideas in the society, we will not have many of the problems that most non-Islamic countries suffer.

The correspondent of Channel 4 of British television asked: Will Iran make a distinction between its practical and ideological needs? The president responded: We do not see a need to change our ways, and we do not think that our ideology is contrary to our needs.

He added: The occurrence of the Islamic revolution in Iran has threatened the interests of some of the unpopular powers, and hence they engage in propaganda against us and impose war. But we are not prepared to pay the same tributes that the Pahlavi regime paid to foreigners and change our ideology.

Concerning the elimination of some of the programs of the Social Security Organization and payment of workers' base pay, the president told the correspondent of KAR VA KARGAR newspaper: The government shall pay the amount of its obligation with regard to the payment of the workers' base pay annually from the budget and shall pay it gradually.

Concerning the transfer of factory shares, he also said: Based on the bylaws ratified by the Cabinet, if workers and employees of factories are willing, 33 percent of the shares will be transferred to them at the determined time. Otherwise, this amount of shares will be transferred to other persons.

In response to the idea that the government by revising economic decisions causes the inclination of capital towards the intermediary sector, the president said: In the phase of passage from one situation to another, sometimes these decisions are necessary, but not all the problems are due to this revision, and essential decisions have never been changed. He added: The efforts of intermediaries, incorrect propaganda, and the creation of a climate by some in the media create a totality in the market that promotes the intermediary sector.

In regards to why it was necessary to invite the American editors to travel to Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Not everyone who uses a pen should be considered an agent of the oppressors. There are freedom-loving people in the foreign media who write the truth. And considering the false propaganda that exists in the United States against Iran, inviting the above-mentioned chief editors was a positive action.

Concerning the lack of sensitivity of the government toward American goods, such as Coca-Cola, the president said to KEYHAN correspondent: We do not consider severance of trade relations with the United States to be correct. Much of our military equipment is made in the United States. We cannot throw away the large national investment that is irreplaceable.

He explained: The trade relations between Iran and the United States are at a very broad level, and it is inappropriate for society to be sensitive about it. In my opinion, raising the issue of Coca-Cola is a somewhat popularized idea.

Concerning the accusations by the global oppressors about the violation of human rights in Iran, the president said: The violation of human rights in its true sense occurs every day in the Western world. But because the propaganda sources of the oppressors are greater than ours, they make a ruckus for no reason. I announce clearly that in the Islamic Republic human rights are observed more than anywhere else, and we are prepared to debate anyone who claims otherwise.

In response to a British reporter stating that there is an Israeli pilot in Iran, the president said: There is certainly no Israeli pilot in Iran. The Zionist regime is trying to coverup the kidnapping of 40 Iranians in Lebanon by making such claims.

He said: Westerners must not think onesided. They must also show sensitivity to the kidnapping of the four Iranians in Lebanon. [sentence as published]

In regards to the claims of cooperation between Iran and the Irish Republican Army, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There is no relationship between these two. England by making such a claim is trying to justify its security weakness.

Concerning the problems of the policy of economic modification, he said: All the issues of the First Plan and economic modification have been positive, and, regarding high prices, we are obliged to bring the prices to a realistic level in order to make the economy sound.

The president added: Reaching the actual prices is a good thing, and we intend to spend a great deal of the resources of the country that have been spent on the payment of unfair subsidies on the construction and development of oppressed regions and industrial and agricultural projects.

In another part of his speech, he said: A large number of plans are being examined concerning social security and health insurance in order to reduce the economic pressures on the low-income stratum. In the Second Plan, all those who have less income or for whatever reason are unable to work and make a living shall be eligible for social insurance.

In regards to the issue that if Iran is owed a great deal why does this country postpone the payment of its debts, the president said: What is owed us is not in a form that

can help alleviate our debt. We are owed for the nuclear power plant from Germany. We spent 7 billion marks, and the Germans have left the job incomplete. Our investment in Krupp cannot be put up against our debt.

We are also owed a large sum by the United States, but that country does not pay our money easily.

The correspondent of the Italian News Agency asked: In some European countries there have been investigations into the murder of Iranian dissidents, which indicates these murders in some cases are related to Iran.

The president responded: The connection of Iranian officials in the murder of Iranian dissidents abroad is only a claim and pure propaganda. In our opinion, these murders are the result of internal group conflicts.

He emphasized: The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not to resort to force to eliminate its opponents. Rather, it tries to guide them to return to the bosom of Islam and the country.

* Minister of Mines, Metals Questioned in Majles

94LA0183A Tehran SALAM in Persian 18 May 94 p 9

[Text] Parliamentary Affairs Division. Yesterday Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, appeared in the Majles and answered the question from Ahmad Habibian, deputy from Hamadan. Our correspondent reports that in discussing his question, Mr. Habibian said:

1. How much does the production of the units under the ministry's mantle, especially the Mobarakeh Steel and Iron Complex, differ from the goals set in the Five-Year Plan?
2. So far, how much steel has been exported and at what price, and has the domestic market been saturated or not?
3. Has anything been sent back from export shipments, and if so, why?

In answer to the first question from the deputy from Hamadan, Engineer Mahluji said: In the Five-Year Plan, production targets for the units under a ministry were not set. The Five-Year Plan has to do with sectors. On page 39 in the Five-Year Plan Book two numbers are given: intermediate industries were to show growth of 20 percent, and performance under the First Five-Year Plan was 32.4 percent.

Concerning the second question the minister of mines and metals said: Steel exports began in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], with 800,000 tons. In the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] the export figures were more than 1,425,000 tons. Concerning prices, sales were $220 million in the year 1371 and $334 million in the year 1372. Has the domestic market been saturated? The answer is affirmative.

When we began in the second half of the year 1368 [23 September 1989-20 March 1990], there was almost no steel to be found on the domestic market and it was rationed. We had a physical balance. Today none of these things exist. The domestic market is saturated, the warehouses are full. God willing, this year we will export more than 1.4 million tons. Concerning the third question, has anything been sent back from export shipments, he said: the answer is no.

Mr. Habibian, deputy from Hamadan, said in answer to the statements by the minister of mines and metals: With regard to performance, the reports we have received from the auditors at the Accounting Court contradict the minister's remarks. With regard to the Esfahan Iron Foundry Corporation, the goal in the First Five-Year Plan was 7,750,870 tons, yet the figure was 8,311,571 tons, so that we had growth here, which was higher than the Five-Year Plan (107 percent). The Iran Steel Industries Group had a target of 3,062,820 tons under the First Five-Year Plan, while it produced 2,861,748 tons, meaning it achieved 93 percent of the goal. The Ahvaz Steel Industries Company had a goal under the First Five-Year Plan of 5,850,000 tons, while it produced 2,774,538 tons, meaning it achieved 47 percent of the goal. The target for the Mobarakeh Steel Company was 3,240,000 tons, while it produced 944,691 tons, meaning it achieved 29 percent of the goal. Finally the goal for the Kavian Steel Company was 2,400,000 tons, while it produced 256,799 tons, or 11 percent of the target.

Concerning the losses in these units, the Ahvaz Steel Industries Company lost $38,203,680. The Mobarakeh Steel Company lost $1,373,484,520 and the Kavian Steel Company lost about $535,800,250. These are the losses that these companies had.

We have recently received a fax from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning a wandering ship whose status is yet to be determined. I will read this report for you:

1. In fax number...to the acting executive director of steel concerning the failure to send the Esfahan Iron Foundry delegation on 7/15/1372 [7 October 1993], the importance of the matter and the repeated follow-ups by fax from the Chinese side to resolve the differences was discussed, and here the Chinese became quite angry and wanted clarification of the situation.
2. In letter number...dated 7/27/1372 [19 October 1993] to Mr. Mahluji signed by Dr. Velayati, a report was given on the existing issues and problems, the solutions proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the failure to achieve the desired agreement. Here the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actually presenting the solution.
3. In fax number...dated 1/18/1373 [7 April 1994] from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Peking to Mr...., executive director of the Esfahan Steel Foundry, a request was made for an explanation of the problems.

4. In fax number...dated 2/3/1373 [23 April 1994] from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Peking to Mr. Mahluji the subject was raised in detail again and a request for the desired action was made in view of the embezzlement of public funds, and unfortunately here no action has yet been taken.

In addition to the above correspondence and the letters exchanged with the Chinese to prepare the way for exchanges of visits, face-to-face meetings have also been held to explain and solve the problems.

We continue to suffer losses from demurrage. Our demurrage losses up to 10/1/1372 [22 December 1993] were given as $3,455,290 by the Ahvaz Steel Complex and they were $5,741,449 at the Esfahan Iron Foundry. This is 2,529,103,225 tumans, and this is the amount of loss from demurrage.

We have received reports on the various credits. I will say first that according to the evidence and reports, the statistics on the Esfahan Iron Foundry's exports up to 5/18/1372 [9 August 1993] are as follows:

Orders for various types of steel are 895,700 tons, of which 477,706 remain unfilled. In other words, the Esfahan Iron Foundry has been able to meet only 50 percent of its commitments for foreign sales. In reality, demand on the international markets for products from the Esfahan Iron Foundry is twice the supply.

He said: Credit account number...with a C and F was established with an opening date of 4/19/1373 [10 July 1994, as published] and a shipment date of 6/16/1373 [7 September 1994, as published] for a quantity of 5,000 tons of angle iron at $334 per ton, but under row...5,164 [as published] tons was shipped, showing an increase of 164 [as published] tons with a value of about 96,278,840 rials [R]. That is, we sent extra iron, but they did not want it. When we sent too much we were forced to sell it at a low price, and the documents are here.

Of all these items, which total about 11, this result is obtained:

1 - Credit account number... or 5,000 tons valued at $1,000,718,987, and the losses from excess shipments were for 164 [as punlished] tons valued at $55,016.

2 - Credit account number...was for 5,000 shipping tons valued at $1,000,643,720.

He said: The last word on the 11 items is that they total $13,450,467,097, which would represent losses of R2,353,831,894 [as published] at 175 tumans per dollar on the 11 items, and I was not able to explain and discuss that.

In answer to the statements from the deputy from Hamadan, Engineer Mahluji said: I really asked Mr. Habibian once, and unfortunately he paid no attention to me, that if he had a question or if something was not clear, to come and tell me, really if the answer is not satisfactory he should discuss it in the open Majles or at a public forum.

He said: He has presented a series of numbers and figures that are very far from the reality. He says that the National Steel Industries Group, under the goals of the First Five-Year Plan, was to produce 3,620,000 tons. Now that we have rebuilt the National Steel Industries Group since the war, we have brought its capacity up to 1.3 million tons. The basic total capacity of this national group is 800,000 tons. How is it that the goal under the plan was 3.6 million tons, and now we are to produce 2.8 million tons there? No matter where they prepared this report, I said that there is nothing written in the Five-Year Plan Book about how much each unit must produce. For example, he says the target for Ahvaz Steel Industries was 5.850 million tons. Well, the respected deputies from Ahvaz are here. They all know that since the time it was built Ahvaz Steel was to produce 1.5 million tons. Where did the figure of 5.850 million tons come from? Now after this he is saying that its performance should be 2.78 million tons. Or for example he says that the target for Mobarakeh Steel was 3.24 million tons, yet it has been said so many times that the outside capacity for Mobarakeh Steel is 2.4 million tons. I have asked him, I have told him it is bad to give these figures in public. I told him to come and I would give him all the figures with tables and books.

He said: He says the target for Kavian Steel was 2.4 million tons, and we were to produce 1 million tons. Kavian's production is actually less than 800,000 tons. Now 51 percent of the shares of this company belong to the Social Security Organization, and you can ask Mr. Karbasian, who is here, about that. This discussion about numbers and figures has to do with production, and you saw how much it differs from reality.

Concerning losses, he says that Mobarakeh Steel (he gave some of these numbers so quickly that I really did not have time to write them down, because these things were not discussed previously in commission, just these same questions were read, and I answered them. If he had presented these figures I would have answered them one by one).

For example, he said Kavian Steel lost $500 million. How much did it produce to lose $500 million? (Well, if it was this way, I do not know what the Social Security Organization did there, which is in charge of it). How much would this $500 million be if we multiplied it by 270 tumans?

Or for example, he says Ahvaz Steel lost $1.373 billion. What did it do, to have losses? This project took two years to go into operation. How much did it produce? At what price did it sell it to lose $1 billion? In the year 1372 the total exports by units under the Ministry of Mines and Metals was $510 million. Now how much did we lose that we lost only $1.373 billion? You see that the numbers and figures are like this. I really do not know

where he got the things he said about demurrage. I ask him to present these things in documented form and we will study them one by one.

During this Mr. Nateq-Nuri gave a paper from Mr. Habibian to Mr. Mahluji. In this letter Mr. Habibian said he gave some of the numbers and figures when asking the question. While reading this letter Mr. Mahluji said: In this letter he has written that the losses in the Steel Industries Group is $1.373 billion. Well, it makes no difference. I will put these notes aside and I will explain the same three instances he has mentioned.

You have written that Ahvaz Steel Industries lost $1,373,486,520. My answer is that in the last two years Ahvaz Steel exported about 300,000 tons of slab steel in the first year and 500,000 tons in the second year. You can ask the Plan and Budget Organization, and they are here. What money have they given to Ahvaz Steel, other than a few rebuilt sections, which are small in number? Ahvaz Steel has now repaid its former accumulated losses, it has reformed its own administrative system, it has bought back its surplus manpower, it has met the nation's need for slab steel, and the world is now waiting in line to get slabs from Ahvaz Steel. This year its program is to produce 1.3 million tons. How could this factory lose 1 billion? We would either have to owe this billion dollars to foreigners or domestically. If we owed it to foreigners, the whole world would be telling us we have this much debt. If we owed it domestically, multiply this $1 billion by 270 tumans and it is 270 billion tumans. Does all the bank currency in circulation and the loans they are granting throughout the country total 270 billion tumans?

Or for example he said that the Mobarakeh Steel Complex owes $688 million. To whom does Mobarakeh Steel owe this money? Or for example he said that Kavian Steel owes $535 million. Very well, Mr. Karbasian is here. These figures are truly mistaken. What are these? Do you know how much $535 million is, multiplied by 270 tumans? Mr. Karbasian owns 51 percent of the shares. Ask him right now how much Kavian Steel owes. Does this mean that according to you in the first three or four years of the First Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Mines and Metals has acquired $2 billion in debts? Well, these are the things he said.

He said: Mr. Habibian, the performance of these management groups really cannot be evaluated through the discussion of things like this. I really do not know what your sources are, but these figures are quite mistaken. Again I ask you, come and I will give you some things.

He observed that the performance of the Ministry of Mines and Metals has been praised by the nation's officials. He said: How is it that you think all these things can be questioned based on these numbers and figures? These things are not questionable. During the First Five-Year Plan we succeeded in having $1.3 billion in exports. At the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994] the Export Development Center reported that 60 percent of the nation's industrial exports were done by the Ministry of Mines and Metals complex.

Our correspondent reports that in a short statement Mr. Habibian said he was not satisfied with Engineer Mahluji's answer. He said: All these documents and figures were prepared by this nation's official accountants, the Accounting Court and the National Inspectorate Organization. Therefore, all of these things should be questioned. Are Mr. Mahluji's numbers and figures correct? I am not convinced. There are accounts and records. They must answer in court.

Our report states that because the deputy from Hamadan was not happy with the answer from the minister of mines and metals, the question was referred to the Constitution Articles 88 and 90 Commission.

In a contact with Mr. Habibian, our correspondent learned that some of the numbers and figures he cited in the open Majles were read incorrectly. It was therefore agreed that he would provide our correspondent with the correct figures for the next issue.

The Bill To Collect Cash Fines From Employers at Factories Subject to the Social Security Law Who Do Not Send the Statements on Wages and Salaries for Insured People and Insurance Premiums Within the Allotted Period of Time received final approval at yesterday's open Majles session.

According to this bill, which was approved, employers at all factories subject to the Social Security Law are required to send statements on wages and salaries for all insured people, insurance premiums and unemployment insurance for each month no later than the end of the last day of the following month to the Social Security Organization, and to make the payments.

Based on one of the provisions of this bill, employers who do not prepare and send statements on wages and salaries for insured people will be required to pay fixed cash fines as given below:

1: Up to R300,000 in monthly insurance premiums, 5 percent of the insurance premiums for the same month.

2: From R300,000 to R1,200,000 in monthly insurance premiums, 10 percent of the insurance premiums for the same month.

3: From R1,200,000 to R2,500,000 in monthly insurance premiums, 15 percent of the insurance premiums for the same month.

4: For amounts in excess of R2,500,000 in monthly insurance premiums, 20 percent of the insurance premiums for the same month.

This law also provides cash penalties for employers who do not pay all or part of the insurance premiums and unemployment insurance premiums for each month.

Employers who have insurance premium debts to the Social Security Organization prior to the date of this law's enactment will be exempt from the payment of the penalties given in this law if they reach an agreement with the aforementioned organization within one year on the procedure for repaying their fixed debts.

Another provision of this legislation is that projects to rebuild the war-stricken regions and areas that have been rebuilt due to the effects of enemy bombing or the destruction of counterrevolutionaries will be exempt from the penalties given in this law for a maximum of three years. This bill has seven articles and several notes.

As yesterday's open Majles session continued, the Bill Adding the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Maritime Safety and Rescue Convention, enacted in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] was approved and the government was authorized to exchange its documents.

At Wednesday's open Majles session the speaker of the Majles expressed regret at the action taken by the Saudi rulers to prevent the holding of the living and God-pleasing rites to purge the polytheists.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: The Mecca pilgrimage rites carry very important messages for human beings, and if they are to be performed without life or spirit and without learning from them, they will have be of no benefit to the Muslims of the world.

He said: Holding the rites to purge the polytheists endangers the resources of the world imperialists and their dependents, and this is the very reason the rulers of Saudi Arabia stopped Iranian and other pilgrims from declaring the purge.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: In taking this ill-considered measure, the leaders in Riyadh demonstrated clearly the difference between the Islam of Muhammad and the Americanized Islam made by the imperialists.

The Majles speaker said: The willing servitude to our enemies by the leaders of the Hijaz in preventing the rights to purge the polytheists was not unexpected. Fortunately, through the insight of the vice regent's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, and with the confirmation of the exalted leader, any demonstration of disrespect or use of pretext on their part was effectively prevented.

He said yesterday's silence on the part of the visitors to the House of God was quite meaningful. He said: The oppressed silence of the pilgrims will bring the Government of Saudi Arabia into question in the eyes of Muslims and all the world's free people, and this very thing is enough for us.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also commemorated the memory of the martyrs in the bloody incident in the purging of the polytheists on 6 Zihejjeh 1407 [1 August 1987].

Deputy From Rasht's Remarks

Ahmad Nosratirad, deputy from Rasht, was the first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session. During his speech he discussed the trip by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, to the province of Gilan, and he discussed Iran's political and economic situation and its role in international and regional relations during Rafsanjani's presidency.

He discussed Iran's average economic growth during the years of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan, and presented statistics on the nation's other products and industries. He said that the nation's growth and development under this plan is one of the president of the republic's successes.

The deputy from Rasht discussed the role of the Muslim people of the province of Gilan during the course of the revolution and the imposed war, and he asked the Voice and Vision organization to reflect as much as possible the passionate feelings of the people in welcoming the president of the republic.

Deputy From Sabzevar's Remarks

'Ali Asghar Baghani, deputy from Sabzevar, was the second preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session. During his speech he commemorated the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Baqer (peace be upon him) and the arrival of the 6th of Zihejjeh. He expressed regret and disgust that the Saudi rulers prevent Iranian and other pilgrims from declaring the purge of the polytheists.

The speaker then discussed the exalted leader's advice about relying on nonoil exports and an economy without oil. He said: Making up for backwardness and rebuilding the destruction definitely needs the cooperation and solidarity of all the government's organizations, and indeed of all the nation's classes. However, this sacred goal and high objective must not be a justification for unbridled and astronomical increases in the prices of some government services, where some official in an organization recommends increasing the price for some services 200-fold.

He said: Although achieving the goals of the Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan is the ultimate hope and aspiration of all the nation of Iran, this must not be done at the price of uncontrolled and back-breaking inflation.

He discussed the damaging effects of using satellite television programming. He said: In my view, the reasoning of some writers and speakers that the faith and culture of the people must be reinforced is mistaken. For us, while we want to reinforce work on the public's faith and culture, we do not consider this alone to be enough. Corruption must also be prevented.

Deputy From Shushtar's Remarks

Zabihollah Karimi, deputy from Shushtar, was the next speaker. At the beginning of his speech he discussed the fact that the pilgrimage to Mecca is a gathering of representatives of one-fifth of the world's population. He emphasized that the pilgrimage rites are rites to purge aggression, imperialism, exploitation and the ordinary excessive demands of some governments.

Continuing, he said: One of the conditions of friendship and solidarity is rejecting any kind of aggression against human rights and dignity. It is the clear right of the representatives of the Muslim nations to adopt the path of rejecting oppression and despotism.

Continuing, the deputy from Shushtar discussed the late Imam's remarks concerning the pilgrimage to Mecca. The Imam said: Destroying the dignity of the Ka'ba is not something that can be ignored. He emphasized that the enemies of unity and Islam, those who fought to keep the gates of the House of God with two bottles of wine, are today also happy. It is their morality to shoot the visitors to the house of God with bullets for a smile from their masters, and they are preventing the pilgrims from purging the polytheists. What else can be expected from the Wahabis?

The speaker then discussed the nation's economic problems. He said: It is my obligation to say in the shadow of the leadership and in the language of the deprived that some of our economic policies are mistaken. It is surprising that some economic officials are not willing to correct their mistakes. Justice demands that we help each other without reservation. We cannot use Western explanations and methods to solve our native problems in economic areas. In the Second Five-Year Plan we must cut off two kinds of leeches, the gold hoarders and the Americanized pseudo-intellectuals.

Continuing, the deputy from Shushtar discussed the fact that currently bribery is common in the offices and embezzlement of society's property and assets is quite prevalent. He called for an investigation of these issues, and gave specific examples. He said: In some of the nation's management organizations there are individuals who draw wages from several different parts of the government, and this is a violation of Article 114 of the Constitution.

The speaker also discussed the plundering of the public treasury. He said: Huge plundering new capitalists have appeared who are abusing the weakness and the failure to take a revolutionary approach, and who do whatever they wish to do. The province of Khuzestan, a land which is the nation's lifeline, has become a place to plunder the public treasury due to the lack of concern for employing worthy managers. If we look at media reports, this very month a number of these plunderers have been arrested. Yet warnings were issued some time ago.

He added: The huge amount of plundering taking place in Khuzestan and other provinces is small compared to what is happening in Central Province, and the people must know what people, what group or what faction is supporting these plunderers of the public treasury.

In conclusion, he said: It is surprising that this approach is being taken in a province that should have the best, most sound and most aware managers. Is this province a sewer for unworthy manpower and managers?

Deputy From Astaneh-Ashrafieh's Remarks

The final speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Hasan Shakhesi, deputy from Astaneh-Ashrafieh. During his speech he condemned the prohibition of the rites to purge the polytheists by the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

He then discussed the president of the republic's trip to the province of Gilan, and he thanked and praised him for coming to Astaneh-Ashrafieh and meeting and speaking with the people.

The deputy also thanked the vice regent's representative, the governor-general, the officials, and the people of Gilan for their enthusiastic welcome for the president of the republic.

The deputy from Astaneh-Ashrafieh listed some of the measures taken throughout the country during Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term as president of the republic. He said: When the nation of Iran pays attention to the services of the government, it breaks out with spontaneous expressions of joy and happiness. Every moment they want to embrace the officials and kiss them. In these last few days, wherever the president of the republic went in the province of Gilan, women, men, young and old came to welcome him with their soiled laboring hands, and they praised him in the Gilaki language.

* City Hall Accused of High Cost of Land, Housing

94LA0191A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The performance of the municipality of Tehran is the most important factor in the high prices and inflation, especially in the land, housing, and construction sector.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, chief of the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission, announced the above at a press conference. He added: Last year the municipality of Tehran spent 10 billion rials on manual water delivery to some green areas to pay for the use of water tankers and needed personnel. Research shows that if the municipality had saved this money it could have provided piped water to all the parks.

He noted that the high construction and acceptance fees collected by the municipality has multiplied the prices of land and apartments up to fivefold. He said: We say the

municipality should get most of its revenues from capitalist individuals, rather than having most of its policies aimed at putting pressure on society's vulnerable and deprived classes. Have you (the municipality) yet recommended that weak individuals be assisted in this regard? If such a thing had been done, what official would not have accepted those recommendations?

The chief of the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission then explained: For example, in the last seven years the municipality of Tehran has shut down without any reason the operations of 1,270 shopkeepers and ice peddlers, almost all of whom had paid all their wages and salaries for 30 years and had legal authorization, and most of these people are now idle. Are we expected to defend the municipality in this regard?

He added: In this regard the Administrative Justice Court has repeatedly condemned the municipality, but unfortunately the municipality of Tehran has paid no attention. If the municipality is not going to listen to the court either, then what organization does it have to listen to?

At the beginning of his tenure, the current minister of the interior, Mr. Besharati, made promises that made us hopeful, and we thought that these instances would be acted upon lawfully, but the municipality continued acting stubbornly as before.

He emphasized: From the very beginning, although I made every effort to convey the problems and difficulties of the people complaining, I have never ignored the positive aspects of the municipality's performance.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi-Saveji then discussed the Law on the Election of City Islamic Councils and Mayors. He said: The mechanism for electing mayors was approved in the commission in one way, but it took another form in the bill. Based on the commission's enactment, the people would elect the Islamic councils according to qualifications set by the Ministry of the Interior, and then the mayor would be elected by a council of public trustees, and be approved by the minister of the interior. The dismissal of the mayor would be done in the same way.

He added: The government's bill says that both the election of the city council and the mayor will be done directly by the people. Its dismissal will be done if the city council sees the municipality as being weak, in which case the issue will be referred to a council in the province and the dismissal will be done if the council votes to do so. For this purpose 80 million tumans was given to the Ministry of the Interior. God willing, after this law's approval in the second consultation, the aforementioned elections will take place in the first six months of this year [21 March-23 September 1994].

Elsewhere in his talk he discussed the responsibilities and performance of the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission. He said: In the first year of the Fourth Majles, which is now two years old, we had 73 official sessions with 174 hours of work, and in the second year we had 80 official sessions with 185 hours of work on the motions and bills.

During this period we had three research and investigation proceedings. With regard to two of them, reports on the incidents in Mashhad and Kermanshah were read in the Majles. The other case was about the National Reconstruction Staff and nature of its expenditures and credits, and a report on it will be read soon in the Majles.

According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi-Saveji, the most important measures enacted by the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission were: the Bill To Hire Police Personnel, the Bill on the Councils Law, the Bill on the Law on Hiring Ministry of Intelligence Personnel, bills pertaining to the establishment of the new provinces of Ardebil and Qazvin, the Bill on the Use of Arms by Police Forces, the Motion on Supervision of Foreign Trips by Government Workers, and the Motion To Prohibit Unlicensed Motorcycles.

He continued: In the two-year life of the Fourth Majles a total of 93 motions and bills have been presented and studied in the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission.

Likewise, during this period 13 deputy questions to the former minster of the interior were presented and pursued in the presence of that minister. A total of five questions have also been directed to the current minister of the interior.

Recently several deputies from Khuzestan put questions to Mr. Besharati, minister of the interior, concerning a clash between a group of residents of a village with the police, which led to the killing of adolescents, and this is on the Majles agenda.

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